

REMARKS

Claims 9, 15 and 16 are amended herein. Claims 12 and 19 are canceled herein. Claims 1-8 have been previously canceled. Accordingly, Claims 9-11, 13-18, and 20-22 remain pending. In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the examiner notes that Claims 9-15 are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over co-pending Application No. 11/739,575. The examiner notes that a timely filed terminal disclaimer may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on non-statutory double patenting. Accordingly, a terminal disclaimer is submitted herein.

Claims 9-12 and 14-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Nos. 3,628,999 issued to Schneble, Jr. et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,425,751 issued to Locke et al. Claim 13 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Schneble in view of Locke, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,753,529 issued to Chang et al. Applicants respectfully traverse.

As indicated above, independent Claims 9 and 16 have been amended in order to further clarify the invention. More specifically, Claims 9 and 16 have been amended to indicate that a metal layer is formed not only on the inner peripheral surface portion of the hole adjacent to the first surface of the work piece. A metal layer is also formed on a portion of the first surface of the work piece adjacent to the hole such that the metal layer is directly adhered to the first surface of the work piece adjacent to the hole (a non-through hole in Claim 9, and a through hole in Claim 16). Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification, for example, Figures 8 and 17, respectively.

More specifically, Figures 8 and 17 depict a through-hole type structure and non-through hole type structure according to the present invention, as set forth in Claims 9 and 16, respectively. In the structure depicted in Figures 8 and 17, metal layers (15, 55) protrude from holes (11, 51) of work pieces (10, 50) and then extend radially outward with flanged portions being directly adhered to the respective work piece surface portions adjacent to holes (11, 51). This element is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

To the contrary, the Schneble reference is relied upon by the examiner for the step of forming a metal layer. More specifically, the examiner refers to column 4, lines 55-65 and Figure 1F for the formation of a metal layer. However, an analysis of Figure 1 (F, G and H), as well as Figure 2 (H, I and J) and Figure 3 (H, I and J) depict flanged portions of metal layers 30, 66, 118 and 122 are tentatively adhered to strippable temporary masks 26, 56 and 112 and are *not* directly adhered to their respective base surfaces (i.e., work piece surfaces).

Therefore, neither Schneble nor any of the other cited references disclose or suggest forming a metal layer on an inner peripheral surface portion of the hole adjacent to the first surface of the work piece, *and* on a portion of the first surface of the work piece adjacent to the non-through hole such that the metal layer is directly adhered to the first surface of the work piece adjacent to the hole.

Since the cited references taken together do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of the claims as presently amended, withdrawal of the pending rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

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Applicants submit that the application is now in proper form for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If resolution of any remaining issue is required prior to allowance of the application, it is respectfully requested that the examiner contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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